

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Library Now Offers “Book Clubs to Go”

GLENDALÉ, Ariz. – Thousands of people across the country are jumping on board. Book discussion groups can be found in libraries, bookstores, churches, your neighbor’s living room, to name just a few locations, but every day new readers are discovering the joys of talking with others about a particular book.

Glendale Public Library is making it easier for residents to start and run their own book discussion groups. Free Book Clubs to Go kits are now available from any Glendale city library.

Currently, 28 titles are available for check out, but Adult Reference Supervisor Cheryl Kennedy says that eventually there will be 50 selections. A few of the titles include “The Piano Tuner” by Daniel Mason, “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” by Maya Angelou, “The Magic of Ordinary Days” by Ann Howard Creel, “The Hours” by Michael Cunningham and “The Mermaid Chair” by Sue Monk Kidd.

Glendale resident Virginia Conroy, who lives at Thunderbird Retirement Resort, spurred the project forward when she inquired if the library had this type of service available. Planning was just getting underway to establish book discussion kits, but with Conroy’s interest, preparations kicked into high gear.

Besides Kennedy, librarians Melanie Edens, Lisa Colcord, Cyndee Landrum and Bette Sharpe worked on selecting the books for the kits. In addition to 5-10 copies of a particular title, the kits contain discussion questions, author biographical information, reviews of the book, a summary of the story, tips for successful book clubs and other book related material.

To give the program a test run, Conroy’s group, the Thunderbird Retirement Page Turners, have spent the past few months checking out different kits. Edens, a reference librarian at the Main Library, has served as the contact for the discussion group, selecting kits with enough books for this club of eight members.

“Melanie has chosen very well for us,” says Conroy. “We have read about



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Asian families, Native American and Southwest families, the Amish community and other stories with moral and ethical dilemmas. We have lively discussions and many differing opinions. Each session is a satisfying and informative hour, with each person contributing her opinions to complete the circle.”

The library’s graphic artist, Mojgan Vahabzadeh, designed a special Book Clubs to Go logo, for the roomy canvas bags. The kits are all stored at the Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St., but can be sent to Foothills Branch Library, 19055 N. 57th Ave., or Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Ave., for pick up or return.

Book groups may keep a kit for six weeks. Any lost books must be replaced.

The retirement center residents see another benefit as a result of their book club. Conroy, who also volunteer’s at the Main Library, adds, “We had only known each other casually before forming the Page Turners. Now we have a special bond of acceptance and trust as a result of our sharing of ideas and opinions.”

For more information about Book Clubs to Go kits, stop in any Glendale library or call Cheryl Kennedy at 623-930-3546.

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